The German Tribune

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Pressure over human rights must be maintained at talks

What has become of Helsinki? Only the Follow-up Conference in Belgrade in the summer and autumn will tell. The conference, which will be attended by the 33 European and the two North American signatories of the Helsinki Final Act, is intended to review the implementation of that Act.

Officials of the 35 governments will meet in June in order to set the date, agenda and duration as well as the level at which the review of the Act is to take place.

It would be fallacious to underestimate procedural questions, for such talks frequently chart the course of the conference itself.

At the Ambassadors' meeting in Helsinki in the winter of 1972/73, for instance, the actual drawing-up of an agenda made it possible for the Foreign Ministers to discuss human rights at the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The forthcoming preparatory meeting in Belgrade will now have to serve as a fixative for the achievements of Helsinki because the agenda will include all aspects of the Final Act.

It has now turned out that the Soviet Union miscalculated as regards the CSCE. Moscow had pursued this project within the framework of its European policy for well over 20 years – albeit with varying degress of enthusiasm – hoping to unseat America from its dominant position in Europe and to tak its place.

But the whole thing now seems to have turned into a embarrassment for Moscow. Helsinki cost more in concessions than it was worth.

This is partly due to the fact that, having after a long tug-of-war succeeded in including "the inviolability of borders" (reserving the right of peaceful changes) in the Final Act, the Soviet Union demanded merely an omission from the West, namely the changing of borders by force. But by including the human rights issue the West forced the Soviet Union to take constant active steps on the humanitarian front – steps which can rightly be demanded from the Kremlin both from within and without.

While the one is something entirely static, the other is highly dynamic and keeps crying out for fulfilment. It is certain that the dissident unrest in virtually all East European countries has not been actively coordinated. Any coordination there might appear to be arises from the fact that the scheduled Belgrade meeting is drawing closer.

This should induce the participants in the forthcoming conference not to part without having scheduled the next follow-up conference and to insist that the report of the Review Commission be made public in all nations concerned, as was the Helsinki Act.

The Soviet Union expects the brunt of Western criticism to revolve around the human rights issue. Its preparations to meet this criticism are – if the Communist press is anything to go by – of an ambivalent nature.

On the one hand, there is the defensive attempt to devalue human rights in general, as for instance by the argument that human rights are not rights in themselves, but products of the bourgeois society and that the true implementation of human rights lies above all in the class struggle.

On the other hand, the Soviet Union is trying to turn the tables and to enlarge upon the list of human rights. The West, it says, violates social human rights by tolerating unemployment, high rents, meagre educational opportunities, exploitation of foreign workers and by barring people from a civil service career on the grounds of their political convictions.

It is unlikely that the Soviet Unioh expects such charges to be very effective. Its main concern would seem to that the human rights issue could "discredit socialism".

How much muscle should the West show in Belgrade? Like Soviet politicians, Willy Brandt, too, warned against turning Belgrade into a tribunal. But, knowing our West European governments as we do, this is hardly a danger we need worry about.

The arrest of the Soviet dissident Amalrik outside the Elyseee Palace shows that the mistakes West European governments might make were attributable more to cautiousness than to fervour.

Perhaps we should look at the whole thing from another angle. Helsinki turned out to be a success for the West, and this is reason enough to continue on that course. The lot of dissidents and citizens of Communist states in general can only be improved if pressure on the Soviet Union is kept up. And to achieve this Western governments must be pressured by the public into exerting pressure.

But of course there are limits which should not be overstepped. If the Soviet Union were to decide to throw in its cards in a game that is not going well for it at all and if it were to leave the CSCE, the West would be deprived of an important instrument in helping the people of Eastern Europe.

But on other hand the West must not allow itself to be bluffed. It is unlikely that Moscow will find it easy to simply tear up the Helsinki document. After all, there is too much prestige and too much hope of making progress some day at stake.

And Moscow has a vested interest in not discrediting Eurocommunism before the electorate. As a result, any pressure exerted in Belgrade would have to be exerted in careful doses.

The actual danger is not that the Soviet Union might abandon the Helsinki Final Act, but that it might try to water down the human rights aspect or perhaps even to abolish it altogether, or to divert attention from it by raising other issues. This is where the West will have to remain on guard.

Günther Gillessen

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 1 March 1977)

IN THIS ISSUE



Kohl re-elected CDU chairman

Christian Democratic Union chairman Helmut Kohl, left, was re-elected to this post by 767 delegates of the 810 attending the 25th Party Conference in Düsseldorf. With him, from left to right, are Werner Dollinger, representing CSU chairman Franz Josef Strauss, Kurt Biedenkopf, who is relinquishing the post of CDU secretary general and former West German Chancellor, Ludwig Erhard. (Photo: dpa)

West's support for dissidents leads to dilemma

It is in the long run impossible to ignore moral issues without putting oneself in the wrong. It was therefore only right that, as opposed to President Giscard d'Estaing, the Bonn Government did not snub the Soviet dissident Andrei Amalrik, but arranged that he be received by State Minister Wischnewski.

Political expedients, on which President Giscard based his action, cannot be a valid argument where human rights are concerned. No one can stand by idly while the oppressed put their lives at risk.

But the mere defence of morality has nothing to do with politics. In attempting to convert morality into day-to-day politics, our democracies are caught on the horns of a dilemma between their own interests and the principles of which they are the guardians. Not only are they caught in a conflict between interests and principles, but they also lack the power to implement their ideas everywhere.

As Willy Brandt said, compassion demands that we publicly show sympathy for those who have made personal sacrifices to uphold the principles for which we stand. This compassion also demands that we lend them support to the fullest possible extent. But there we are, faced with the thin borderline between a feasible policy and a political campaign.

No Western government must permit itself to arouse false hopes of outside help in the dissidents. And no Western government can increase its pressure on Moscow to such an extent as to create an atmosphere that would induce the Kremlin to turn the screw even further.

Neither President Carter nor Chancellor Schmidt can go beyond the point at which Brezhnev will consider himself compelled to choose between detente (which he still wants) and full control over his realm.

There are indications that the West has come pretty close to this point.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 4 March 1977)

■ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Industrialised nations must make up their minds over Raw Materials Fund

Frankfurter Allgemeine

The industrialised nations have so far either opposed a Raw Materials Fund or evaded a decision on this issue. But with the start of the Ministerial Conference of Unctad in Geneva this month they will have to arrive at a decision one way or another.

The issue at stake is a central fund for raw materials which both Unctad and the developing nations consider essential for a New International Order for the raw materials trade.

The house flag under which this New Order sails is the "Integrated Raw Materials Programme". This would entail the maintenance of, among other things, 18 internationally operated buffer stocks of the 18 most important raw materials as well as multilateral supply and purchasing undertakings between the exporting and the importing nations.

The Integrated Raw Materials Programme was a main issue at the Unctad Conference in Nairobi last May. But in the form in which it was adopted at that conference it entails no concrete obligations, restricting itself to indicating mere objectives in general terms.

The essence of the Programme is the Raw Materials Fund because this is to provide the money for the envisaged buffer stocks, the general assumption being that the reason for the difficulties in bringing about a raw materials agreement lay in the fact that there were no funds available with which to establish the buffer stocks.

The present aim is therefore to secure the funds first and to ensure that the industrialised nations bear the main financial burden for them, when raw materials agreements can be negotiated and buffer stocks established.

The reasoning at Unctad runs roughly as follows: "Once we've got the money we'll easily enough find a use for it."

But this sequence is wrong. The main reason for the failure to date to arrive at a raw materials agreement does not lie in the lack of finance, but in the many tangible difficulties.

In any negotiations of raw materials agreements such difficulties must of necessity arise, and in many instances they are insurmountable.

There is, for instance, the most difficult and intricate problem of fixing the "right" price; for the present market price does not suit the developing nations — be it because they consider it not high enough or be it because they feel that it fluctuates too much for their taste.

If one were to give in to the inclination to set the price too high rather than too low, certain most unwelcome reactions would be likely to occur. Demand, for instance, might shift to another market, other products could come to the fore and overproduction could easily result.

Moreover, there are the difficult problems of subsidies, of demand flexibility and the danger posed by outsiders.

It is furthermore inevitable that opposing interests (and that includes the individual developing nations among each other) will clash once the talks no longer revolve around ideologies but around concrete details, especially in view of the fact that every commodity has its specific peculiarities concerning the market structure, perishability and the extent to which it can be reproduced.

And all these difficulties are bound to hamper the conclusion of raw materials agreements in future as well — regardless whether funds for the financing of buffer stocks are available or not.

Of course, lack of funds can pose additional difficulties, but this coin also has an agreeable side to it inasmuch as it forces those concerned to weigh doubly carefully whether the agreement under discussion is really economically feasible and whether it warrants the financial and organisational burden which it would impose.

If, on the other hand, there is money to be had for the asking, it would be contrary to human nature not to succumb to the temptation.

There is a very real danger that difficulties might be pooh-poohed in order to get hold of the money.

The worry about coming out of the deal empty-handed because the Fund is not (and must not be permitted to be) inexhaustible could also be a temptation to conclude raw materials agreements in such haste that they could never be workable and would only devour huge sums of money.

Even in connection with agreements concluded so far the experience has been so unsatisfactory that they can only be termed economic pseudo-solutions.

The coffee agreement, for instance, burst like a bubble when the market prices exceeded the agreed-upon margin and producer nations simply walked out on the deal.

The wheat agreement collapsed when surpluses flooded the market and producer nations started undercutting each other's prices.

The tin agreement is no longer functioning because the tin buffer stocks are depleted and sales from these stocks proved ineffectual in depressing skyrocketing prices.

All this shows that agreements fizzle out at the very moment when they are supposed to prove their worth.

Past experience would thus seem to show that raw materials agreements are superfluous. If, however, the industrialised nations were to give in to the clamouring of the Third World for such agreements, if — for purely political reasons — they were to hand them over like toys so to speak only to pacify a fractious child, they would merely demonstrate cynicism vis-a-vis the developing nations which the latter (despite their unwarranted demands) do not deserve and which could not remain without consequences.

The Unctad idea whereby financing must be secured first and the rest will come of its own accord merely distracts from the unsolved (and in many instances insoluble) problems — problems which, in Unctad's view, would then be quasi ironed out by means of the billions provided by the Fund; but they would in no way be eliminated.

And once the negative effects of such a course of action make themselves felt there will be a clamour for more money in order to effect superficial repairs instead of taking action that would remedy the situation.

It thus follows that the establishment of the Fund must certainly not be the first step.

But even the idea as such is fallacious because the Fund is not only intended to finance all buffer stocks, but also to implement other comprehensive measures such as the processing of raw materials in the developing nations themselves, the change of distribution and marketing systems and direct market intervention in critical situations.

To envisage and plan such a super Raw Materials Fund can only be termed megalomania with all its costly and disastrous consequences.

But this plan and the programme as a whole have meanwhile reached such political dimensions that all practical objections concerning economic feasibility have been supplanted.

The Western industrialised nations might now have to pay the price for their long delaying tactics and the dubious resolutions which they signed, thus giving rise to hopes which cannot be fulfilled.

Klaus Peter Krause

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 7 March 1977)

Bonn remains prime target for East bloc spying activities

More than in any other country of the Free World, Communist espionage has for many years centred on the Federal Republic of Germany.

Occasional hopes that détente would lead to a let-up of the Warsaw Pact's ideological and espionage activities proved fallacious.

Nordwest-Zeitung

This country's counter-intelligence service fully realises that Eastern intelligence work has been stepped up rather than diminished.

This has now been confirmed by disclosures of the former Czechoslovak intelligence officer and Bonn correspondent of the news agency Ceteka, Swetosar Simko, who sought political asylum in London and who named two members of the Czechoslovak Embassy in Bonn as spies.

It is a well-known fact in this country — and not only to the counter-intelligence service — that half of the East bloc diplomats accredited to Western capitals are at the same time in the service of Communist intelligence agencies.

Moreover, it is known that the correspondents of Communist media in the West are not only propagandists, but also spies — a task they find easy to engage in under the guise of professional curiosity.

In fact, Swetosar Simko himself was a spy on behalf of the Czechoslovak intelligence service.

Following his arrival in London, he divulged numerous names and, above all, disclosed that the Warsaw Pact nations maintain caches of radio transmitters, mini-cameras and mony for Communist saboteurs in case of war.

The Federal Government reacted to these disclosures with relative equanimity, since they are embarrassing above all to the members of the Czechoslovak Embassy and the many East bloc journalists in this country.

But even so, Bonn is irritated by the fact that it is now faced with the necessity of taking action. And in this case this means that it cannot discreetly ask the Embassy members concerned to leave the country, but must do so in full public view.

Unpleasant though it might be for both sides that, due to the disclosure made in London, these incidents cannot be settled discreetly, it might nevertheless have a salutary effect by making the public even more aware of such activities.

The East bloc's undiminished intelligence activities in the Federal Republic highlight the fact that detente is only possible if this country's security needs are not neglected.

Invitations to East bloc politicians are issued in the full knowledge of these countries' espionage activities in West Germany. But this does not mean that the invitations should be withdrawn, although it is good for the public of the host country to know that the guest — be his name Brezhnev or Husak — is responsible for intelligence activities directed against the host.

Bodo Schulte

(Nordwest Zeitung, 25 February 1977)

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■ HOME AFFAIRS

Government spending up 5 to 6 per cent in 1977



The finance and economic debate will most probably go off without any major disputes taking place. The 1977 Budget is no bone of contention from the point of view of volume taking into account the present economic situation.

No one is likely to press for a redistribution of the varions allocations. And the political scene is not such that it is likely that clear, opposing alternative proposals will be put forward. And that goes as much for the ideas and proposals of Opposition and Coalition as for the difficult financial relationship between Bonn and the individual states.

With expenditures of almost 172,000 million deutschmarks 1977 spending will be between just under five and a little more than six per cent higher than in the previous year depending on how it is calculated.

Considering the expected growth rates of production capacity and the GNP this may be considered just right. Even the expansive effect of the 23,000 million deutschmarks debt that the Government will incur this year is generally considered acceptable.

This is not just because this figure is within the constitutional limit for borrowing. Even taking into account demand boosts and the yield on the capital market, opinion varies little on this count.

Despite the fact that both the public and the Opposition have repeatedly called for "faster consolidation of the budget" and "a return to stability conditions", in view of the labour market situation, no one would seriously consider cutting back credits.

On the contrary, Finance Minister Hans Apel has his hands full trying to moderate the public's high hopes and expectations of a "large growth programme" which would increase Government and state borrowings.

The structure of the budget will not stir up any controversial disputes — this much is clear. The main points of the budget — from the 37,000 million for social affairs, and the 32,000 million-odd for defence down to the 4,000 million for research and 3,000 million for development aid — will come through the public discussion as unscathed as all the detailed work the budget committee has been doing on the side.

The sum total of reapportionments is apparently fairly large, but the effect on each separate part of the budget is negligible. MPs taking part in the debate would have a hard time bettering the Government's proposals.

One aspect of medium-term financial planning could become the subject of a lively discussions, however. This is the question of how the volume, structure and financing of this year's budget will contribute to securing economic growth over the next four years.

Here the Government could come under fire over the presumed increase in growth of the GNP (and of course inland revenue) and also the attempt to raise investment expenditure at the expense of consumption.

But if any progress is to be made in this debate the Christian Democrat and Christian Social Unions' cry of "give investments priority" is not good enough. The CDU/CSU must put forward some alternative proposals. So far these have been lacking.

This is not a reproach. It is simply an undeniable fact. The type and financing of public spending and its effect on economic growth in medium-term financial planning are closely bound up with the hot debate over the tax proposal "higher VAT with relief in other sectors".

And precisely on this important point the CDU/CSU is not saying what it really wants. Every economic expert seems to have a different suggestion — relief independent of VAT, a flat "no" to VAT, conditional "no" to VAT, almost anything for relief, nothing for the state treasury.

While CDU/CSU-run states are in fact putting up not too bad a show, it almost looks as though CDU party chairman Helmut Kohl wants the parliamentary party simply to play around for a while — for instance by protesting in the Bundestag in expectation of a vote in favour in the Bundesrat or Upper House, in which the CDU/CSU has the majority.

The Opposition is not absolutely obliged to come up with alternative proposals. And indisputably, the Opposition can earn itself some unpopularity by putting forward the "wrong" suggestions.

Continued on page 10

Parties are losing touch with the people

A number of recent events indicate fairly clearly that the scene is changing in Bonn. A lot of things have become unclear and seem to have got slightly out of hand, and no one seems to know how they will turn out. Two examples illustrate this point.

- Ways of dealing with public demonstrations — such as the one over the Brokdorf nuclear power station — and the role played by our law courts.

Are political decisions now being made by public initiatives and the courts? Have the parties given up already? Are they failing to get through to the public and understand its needs and wishes?

- The dispute over pensions that has been going on for months and is still showing no signs of being cleared up.

These examples show clearly that the parties are losing touch with the people.

They have realised the importance of various public issues too late in the day. This naturally leads to a rift between people and parties, people and State.

Each time the parties failed to realise the significance of certain disputes or did not notice them at all the level of public scepticism rose a little higher.

Now it has reached the stage where parties are running after their electorate, giving more the impression of being mere opportunists than having any control over public issues.

This is not typical of one party. They are all the same at the moment. People have to know what they can expect of their parties when it comes to issues such as pensions and energy. Parties must take a convincing stand on such matters, since if they fail to do this groups build up outside parliament and the end result is chaos.

Years ago the idea developed of "the responsible citizen". Parties were proud, too, of the trust their "responsible citizens" placed in them. Since then, however, they have sadly betrayed that trust.

The result is dissatisfaction with the parties, and a kind of laconic boredom. But the step from wide-spread distrust of parties to dissatisfaction with the State and its institutions is only a very short one.

Jens Feddersen

(Neue Ruhr Zeitung, 28 February 1977)

Compromise reached in pay deal talks

At the end of the wage talks with the Public Services and Transport Union, Minister of the Interior Werner Maihofer spoke of "a fair compromise". Union leader Heinz Kluncker felt the final agreement was not quite as good for his union as he had hoped, but was evidently not too dissatisfied with the outcome.

But union experts are nevertheless not quite happy with this latest wage agreement in Stuttgart.

From the purely quantitative view point, after the economically problematic wage agreement with the Metal Workers Union, the Public Services Union has kept within the bounds of common sense.

A 5.3 per cent across-the-board rise in wages and salaries for the two million white and blue collar workers in the union throughout the contry, rising to 6.3 per cent with fringe benefits, is not excessive.

But regarding the agreement from the qualitative view point, experts have very mixed and sceptical feelings.

With the agreement over holiday pay the Public Services Union has now managed to get a fourteenth month's salary — they already get a thirteenth. However, this agreement is restricted to the next thirteen months.

So obviously there are going to be more demands for vacation pay at the next wage negotiations, and then it will probably be there to stay. That will be yet another instance of special treatment and privileges for employees of state and local authorities. It is a trend that shows no sign of changing.

The only reason why union leaders did not manage to get everything they were aiming for this time is because of the impecunious situation most state and local authorities are in at present.

In the case of the Construction Workers' Union, which came up with some fairly excessive demands, the fact that so many firms have already gone bankrupt has to be taken into account if more firms are not to collapse, creating more unemployed.

But in any case the wage agreement of 6.9 per cent which was reached for the Metal Workers' Union will not be setting the pace for other wage agreements, because the economic scope in varions fields of activity varies too much.

Kurt Pleyer

(Nordwest Zeitung, 3 March 1977)

Fewer jobless

Unemployment figures sank in February for the first time since September. The worst period was January when there were altogether 1.25 million unemployed.

The return of the mild weather is at least in part responsible for this early turn for the better. How far the slightly better situation in industry contributed to this is something about which the Labour Exchange has not yet ventured an opinion.

In the coming months economic experts from both the unions and Employers' Associations reckon with an industrial growth of only 4.5 per cent instead of five as was originally hoped. With this in view they are predicting an average unemployment quota for 1977 of 950,000.

Finance Minister Apel recently stressed what a strain this high unemployment quota places on the country. He said that by pumping 17,000 million deutschmarks into industry it would be possible to secure a further 700,000 jobs. But because of structural problems, he said, it would cost thousands of millions more to achieve full employment.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 4 March 1977)

New concern over Deutschlandpolitik

Federal President Walter Scheel has expressed concern over the *Deutschlandspolitik*, this country's policy concerning East Germany. But attempts at reducing tension between the Federal Republic and the GDR can only succeed if parties work internally towards eliminating cheap watchwords, slogans and glib ideas.

Not least because of the peoples' rights movement in the GDR, the *Deutschlandpolitik* now requires carefully thought out ideas and not impulsive outbursts. Christian Democratic Union Chairman Helmut Kohl made a first step towards this by announcing his intention of taking up the matter at the Düsseldorf Party conference.

But an Opposition party conference is scarcely a suitable forum for tackling complicated issues concerning the GDR.

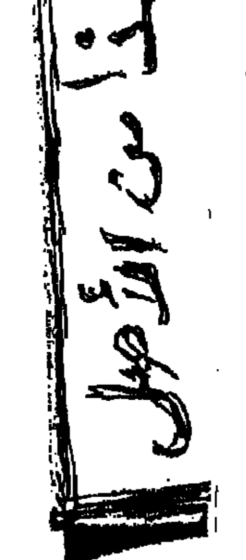
It is after all rather unusual that one guest speaker at the conference is the Swiss Professor Curt Gasteyger, who recently published a book on "The Two German States in World Politics" in which he said that more "awareness of political reality" is necessary and advocated recognising GDR citizenship.

This goes a lot further than what the Schmidt/Genscher government considers either possible, permissible or purposeful at the present while the GDR is continuing to pile on pressure. This is yet another reason why a number of people are waiting with some anticipation to hear what will be said in Düsseldorf.

Bearing in mind not only the coming Follow-up conference in Belgrade to the Helsinki Final Act, but also the years to come, two dangers must particularly be avoided. The Federal republic must not react to the recent provocations by inappropriate retaliation such as that recommended by CDU member Albert Leicht, that transit subsidies be cut. And it must not make glib concessions over such issues as the citizenship question.

The Federal Republic would do well at the moment to have some patience and sit back and wait, particularly since time is on its side as far as civil rights and economy are concerned.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 1 March 1977)



■ BONN

'Bugging' of scientist's home puts Minister in an awkward spot

Werner Maihofer, Federal Minister for the Interior, is at present involved in a constitutional row following disclosures by the news magazine *Der Spiegel* that he authorised the installation of a "bugging" device in the Cologne home of nuclear physicist Klaus Robert Traube. Maihofer says that the 49-year-old scientist was suspected of being in contact with international terrorists and that, because he had access to nuclear power stations, he was considered a particularly high security risk.

Federal Minister of the Interior Werner Maihofer has three possible legal interpretations to hand with which he can try to justify his recent decision to install an electronic snooping device in the home of nuclear physicist Dr Klaus Traube.

Each of the arguments is intended to prove that the Minister has the right to restrict Dr Traube's basic rights under Article 13 of the Constitution (Inviolability of the Home).

Interpretation one goes as follows: Section 3 of the abovementioned Article provides for a limitation of this inviolability if this is necessitated in order to ward off a threat to the community or a threat to the lives of individual persons.

The danger to the community, says Herr Maihofer, existed due to Dr Traube's expertise in nuclear physics and his access to nuclear installations and at the same time his close contacts with international terrorists and their sympathisers.

(Dr Traube rebuts the latter in this form. But in examining the legal situation, all that matters is whether Minister Maihofer had reason for such a belief and this can be presupposed in this case.)

But even so, Herr Maihofer cannot base his defence on the limiting Section 3 for a basic right many only be violated without court order if a danger cannot be averted in any other way.

And agents of the *Bundesverfassungsschutz*, BfV (Internal Security Department) together with specialists of the *Bundesnachrichtendienst*, BND (Federal Intelligence Service) broke into Dr Traube's home and planted the electronic "bug" not in order to avert a danger, but to establish that an assumed danger existed.

Had Herr Maihofer wanted to ward off nuclear terrorism as aided by Dr Traube and had there been an acute danger, there would have been another avenue open to him.

He could have told Dr Traube of his suspicions and could have arranged that he be dismissed from his sensitive position (as actually happened later).

Werner Maihofer could object, saying that he had had to uncover the terrorist organisation suspected of being connected with Dr Traube. But this would presuppose that intelligence work in uncovering terrorist actions generally permits the limitation of a basic right. And Maihofer could hardly have believed that.

Interpretation number two runs like this: According to the unwritten "commonweal" reservation, basic rights have to bow to the commonweal if so required by overriding considerations. This is how the interpretation of the Constitution by Maunz-Dürig sees the case. But it must surely be a question of discretion to decide when such considerations are to be deemed overriding ones. In formal terms one should certainly be able to assume that a Cabinet Minister would discuss truly overriding considerations of the commonweal with the Chancellor.

It is however known that Herr Maihofer did not telephone the Chancellor and discuss the case until he was confronted with the possible publication of the affair by the news magazine *Der Spiegel*.

It can therefore be assumed that the Minister approved of the violation of Dr Traube's privacy on the basis of a fairly sound hypothesis. In any event, he must have expected that the limitation of basic rights would subsequently be approved under the commonweal aspect.

But nothing of the kind transpired. Moreover, the commonweal could also have been safeguarded without such a violation of a basic right.

Under interpretation number three, Herr Maihofer argues that a state of emergency overriding the law existed. But there, too, he must be rebutted with the argument that breaking and entering was a disproportionate means of averting a danger.

The material made public by *Der Spiegel* clearly indicates that the Ministry of the Interior was aware of alternatives open to it inasmuch as it made use of one of these alternatives by having Dr Traube dismissed from his post.

The breaking and entering action did not serve to avert a danger, but only to gather information.

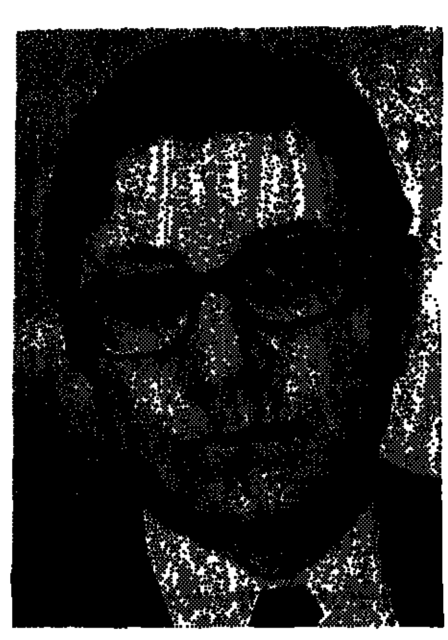
It must also be pointed out in this connection that at the time of the notorious *Spiegel* affair and the searching of its offices at the instigation of the then Minister of Defence Franz Josef Strauss and Chancellor Adenauer for suspected violation of the Secrecy Act Werner Maihofer raised objections.



Klaus Traube (Photo: dpa)

But the only difference between now and then is that in the one case there were state secrets at stake and, in the other, suspected terrorism.

And, according to Maihofer himself, there was not sufficient evidence against Dr Traube to warrant an official investigation.



Werner Maihofer (Photo: Marianne von der Lancken)

As a result, says the Minister, it would have been impossible to obtain a search warrant. But if the evidence was insufficient for legal action, how much more so must it have been for an illegal one.

Legally, Maihofer's position is thus untenable. But the question still arises whether political considerations make this breach of the law at least forgiveable. For, after all, a militant democracy must not permit itself to be helplessly exposed to attacks by political terrorists only because of legal scruples.

It would be hard to refute this maxim. But if such a maxim is to fit into our law and order concept it must be augmented. The political justification of para-legal measures can only apply for the brief moment in which a loophole in the law is discovered and has to be closed by quick action.

The executive branch must therefore make every effort to obtain the missing legal instruments as quickly as possible. Otherwise it would be impossible to allay the suspicion that the executive branch welcomes this grey zone of the law.

But since 1976 Werner Maihofer has done nothing to have Parliament equip him with the necessary legal instruments with which to meet similar contingencies in the future. And this makes his attempt at justifying himself politically questionable.

The Federal Republic needs a functioning protection for its Constitution and the obvious instrument is the *Bundesverfassungsschutz*.

But in the long run, this government agency can only function if the Minister of the Interior can protect it from the suspicion of being an instrument of the executive branch that is wielded against citizens' rights. In this case, however, it was the Minister of the Interior himself who exposed the BfV to such suspicions. This, too, must be taken into account when examining the case from a political vantage point.

Incidentally, should Parliament fail to condemn this breaking and entering action it would be taken as a tacit condonement by the Bundestag, which would be tantamount to an authorisation to proceed along the same lines in future. And what then? Could, in such a case, anyone still be safe from government snooping?

Taking stock of the affair from an ethical point of view, we arrive at the conclusion that nothing can protect us better from terrorism than the law. If

Continued on page 5

Constitutional court gives Bonn a rap over the knuckles

In its ruling of 2 March the *Bundesverfassungsgericht* (this country's Constitutional Court) reprimanded the Government for having violated the Constitution by using public funds, both State and Federal, in promoting the party image during the 1976 election campaign.

The judges stressed, however, that PR work is permissible. But because it is very difficult to draw a clear line between public relations and propaganda the *Bundesverfassungsgericht* suggested that the date as of which "strictest restraint was to be observed" be the day on which the Federal President sets the date for the next election.

The court made it unequivocally clear that the Government represents the whole of the people and not only those who vote for it. As a result, members of Government — and above all the Chancellor — must make it quite clear in their election campaign whether, in each given instance, they act as members of the Government or as party politicians. For it is not the Government, but the party that is to be re-elected.

According to the ruling, the Federal Government violated the principle of neutrality by stepping up its PR work in the hot phase of the election campaign in October 1976.

Future examinations of the legality of election campaigns could lead to grave consequences and, indeed, invalidate Federal or State election results.

The ruling goes on to say that in its election campaign of 1976 the Federal Government violated Article 20/I and II of the Constitution as well as the principle of equality of opportunity in election (Article 21/I and 38/I).

Pior to the 3 October 1976 election, the Court said, the Government coalition parties (SPD and FDP) campaigned for themselves unconstitutionally through advertisements in dailies, TV magazines, the news magazines *Der Spiegel*, the illustrated press, etc.

The Court went on to say that the Government made no provisions to prevent the SPD and FDP from using government funds (according to the Court to the tune of 10 million deutschmarks) for their own campaign purposes.

The judges Willi Geiger, Martin Hirsch and Joachim Rottmann augmented this ruling by putting forward dissenting opinions.

In doing so, Judges Geiger (CDU sympathiser) and Hirsch (SPD sympathiser) advocated a more severe ruling. Judge Rottmann (FDP sympathiser), on the other hand, made it clear that he was not in favour of a reprimand post factum. He favoured a limitation of public funds expenditures in future election campaigns.

Government spokesman Klaus Bölling said in a statement that the "Government would naturally abide by the ruling." But since the ruling applied to State Governments as well, he added that "no-one had a right to be smug in this matter."

Herr Bölling pointed out that the ... page ruling would have to be studied carefully before the Government could issue a final statement on it. He pointed out, however, that he had the impression that the *Verfassungsgericht* had left very little scope for election campaigns — apart from brief breaks — the Federal Republic's parties are engaged in a permanent election campaign. *Knut Teske*

(Die Welt, 3 March 1977)

■ DEFENCE

No change in duties, say new Defence Ministry chiefs

No sooner had the two new State Secretaries in the Defence Ministry assumed office than rumour had it that there would be a change in their spheres of responsibility.

These rumours were based on the specific qualifications of Defence Minister Georg Leber's two closest colleagues.

In the case of General (ret.) Karl Schnell, who succeeded Siegfried Mann as State Secretary for Armaments, the Bonn publication *Wehrdienst* (Military Service) predicted that the trained economist would "not only be in charge of armament matters."

And in the case of the other newcomer, Andreas von Bülow, the same publication had it that the Parliamentary State Secretary would initially have little scope of action and that his traditional tasks would be curtailed.

But Ministry insiders know neither about an extension in the scope of responsibilities of General Schnell or a curtailment of those of Herr von Bülow. They point out that such changes could never remain a secret, saying that "on no issue is the Ministry as touchy as where changes in the scope of responsibility are concerned."

Responsibilities in the Ministry of Defence are clearly defined. The Minister has the final say in all politically relevant decisions and in all areas, and is represented in Parliament by his Parliamentary State Secretary. The latter is also in charge of non-military training such as the Bundeswehr academies, and also deals with PR work and recruiting. Administrative head of the Ministry is the State Secretary (at present Helmut Fingerhut). His tasks extend from personnel matters and the budget to military intelligence and spiritual guidance in the Armed Forces. The Armaments State Secretary is in charge of the sectors Bundeswehr Planning and Armaments.

An the new State Secretaries themselves stress that the status quo has been maintained. In fact, according to General Schnell, there has not even been a change in emphasis. Herr von Bülow also makes a point of saying that he can discern no changes.

Where General Schnell is concerned, only time will tell to which extent his expertise and his special relationship with Herr Leber will provide him with an enlarged scope of action.

As the General himself put it, the Minister's faith in him dates back to the days when he was Deputy Inspector General — in other words, to the time



between 1972 and 1975. This faith has nothing to do with party politics.

This is General Schnell's fourth term in the Ministry of Defence — always in the field of Bundeswehr Planning and Security Policy. He has always been fascinated by modern management methods.

His pièce de resistance dates back to the fifties when he issued a regulation on "infantry supplies". This handbook provides information in the form of graphs and tables on what has to go where in the Army. As General Schnell put it, "It is the only Bundeswehr regulation that was written in the form of an industrial catalogue."

The General learned such procedures during his time in private business from 1951 to 1956.

He embraced the business administration side of the Bundeswehr as far back as 1964 when he decided to forgo his immediate promotion to General in order to enable him to work in his specialised field.

This temporary lag was soon to bear fruit by making him a co-worker of the Minister in matters of military structural planning. And this finally paved the way for his position as Deputy Inspector General and the post of Commander of Nato Forces Central Europe in Brunsum, from where Georg Leber appointed him to the Ministry as soon as it was certain that Siegfried Mann would resign.

General Schnell's experience in Nato qualified him for the post of the Minister's closest adviser on security matters. The second emphasis of his task lies on Bundeswehr planning.

This entails, apart from the realisation of the new Army structure, of which General Schnell is a co-designer, also the socalled Bundeswehr Structure Model Three.

The latter is intended to streamline the individual branches of the Armed Forces and to enable them to forgo specific tasks within their "jurisdiction" — as for instance in the sectors of logistics, medicine or telecommunications.

That this could not be achieved without resistance is borne out in the telecommunications system where the Air Force is unwilling to forgo its own network altogether.

The emphasis of the work of the Armaments State Secretary will remain on armaments — even under General Schnell — although the years of major purchases in that sector are in all likelihood over.

But there still remain challenges of a different nature — as for instance the attempt at building a new tank jointly with the United States, or at least a tank that would have common component parts (as for instance the gun from the Federal Republic).

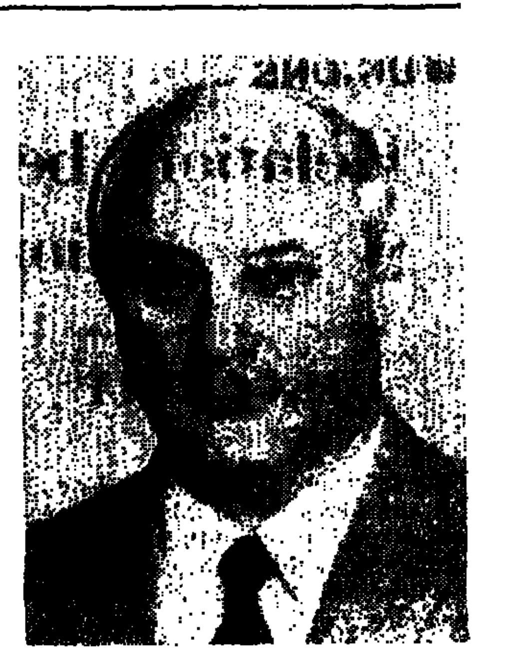
General Schnell is optimistic on this issue, saying that "the United States will have to learn that the arms trade between Bonn and Washington is not a one-way street."

Should the bigger ally fail to see it this way, it is likely to have difficulties in realising its pet project, namely the sale of the flying early warning system AWACS to Europe.

In any event, General Schnell makes it quite clear that, for budgetary reasons, Bonn's participation in this system is out of the question before 1982.

Apart from such specialised problems, General Schnell expects to be faced with the following armaments tasks in the future:

- The continuation of major projects which are already in progress out of available funds, such as the multi-role combat aircraft MRCA (*Tornado*) or the *Frigate 122*.
- The replacement of the last M-48 tank by the new generation of *Leopard* tanks, which would then become the standard tank of the Bundeswgr until the year 2000. There are 1,800 *Leopard II* tanks envisaged initially. The State Secretary for Anti-tank Helicopters of the Army is faced with similar tasks where the successor to the long-range sea reconnaissance helicopter *Atlantic*, the patrol boat S142 and the new minesweeping system *Troika* are concerned.
- The retabling of these armaments systems before Parliament in the specialised committees — systems which have already been approved, but which have since then become 15 per cent costlier. One of the first systems of this kind is the anti-tank system HOT.
- The work on the third generation of antitank weaponry that functions along "fire and forget" lines. In this system the gunner takes a rough aim, pulls the trigger and forgets about the missile which seeks out its target automatically.



Georg Leber (Photo: Sven Simon)

In the long run, says General Schnell, we will have to ponder successor systems to the MRCA and the *Alpha-Jet*.

While General Schnell has a very clear idea of his future tasks, Andreas von Bülow approaches the Armed Forces and their problems with a flexible mind.

Says he: "I don't even know the Bundeswehr as yet. I have plenty of leeway to make up." Herr von Bülow adds, however, that even old hands in the Armed Forces show a similar lack of knowledge.

His big hope is that he will approach his tasks with an untrammeled mind and thus perhaps be able to impart new impulses to the forces.

Herr von Bülow, who has never seen national service, is a lawyer by profession. He has been a member of the Bundesing since 1969 and has made a name for himself as a budgetary expert.

Initial information visits to the Armed Forces provided him with an idea of the major aspects of his new tasks, among them the Bundeswehr University in Hamburg and the "School for Inner Leadership" in Koblenz.

Herr von Bülow discussed the problem of "inner leadership" at length with his closest colleagues, and he feels that much of the present handling of this complex problem is too abstract. He would like to see the Koblenz school provide more practical aid in political instruction and in day-to-day leadership. The school is once more to exert direct influence on the troops.

But Andreas von Bülow leaves no doubt as to the fact that it is up to the Minister, and not up to him, to present the new programme.

Generally speaking, Herr von Bülow is satisfied with the work of our Bundeswehr Academies to date. He warns, however, of excessive expectations. He stressed that he saw no signs of degeneration at the Hamburg Bundeswehr Academy. Even if the officer-students there were not exactly exemplary soldiers, they nevertheless represented the type of the "perfect citizen in uniform".

Herr von Bülow intimated that, generally speaking, he found the Bundeswehr too "streamlined" and that a bit more fruitful tension and discussion could do no harm. The Army, he said, should open up more to the outside world.

All this is reminiscent of the reform mood that prevailed at the beginning of the seventies under the then Defence Minister Helmut Schmidt. And indeed it is said that it was Schmidt who arranged Andreas von Bülow's appointment to his present Defence Ministry post.

Christian Potyka

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 26 February 1977)



Andreas von Bülow



Karl Schnell (Photos: dpa)

Continued from page 4

this were not so we would have to return to the law of the jungle.

Were Interior Minister Werner Maihofer to stick to his principles and his convictions, he would have to sacrifice himself in order to legitimise and complete such actions against terrorism. Any other course of action would mean sacrificing his principles to arbitrariness.

Ludolf Herrmann

(Deutsche Zeitung, 4 March 1977)

■ TECHNOLOGY

Fire-damp explosions that help to make mining safer

In the disused coal mines 350 metres under Dortmund, engineers, technicians, physicists and miners have been artificially setting off fire-damp explosions for experimental purposes for exactly fifty years.

For the uninitiated it is a horrifiying sight when a flame suddenly flares up, runs along the roof of the gallery and sets off a series of explosions on coming in contact with coal dust before finally burning out after one last bang.

For the experts who have seen it perhaps a thousand times it is a matter of routine. And this is after all a mini-explosion compared with the real thing which shoots round faster than the eye can follow, blasting everything — men, machines, pit-props to smithereens.

The methane gas that explodes in these experiments is released into the gallery from gas cylinders — only a few cubic feet of it at a time. Normally, however, it seeps out of coal seams in mines.

Experiments in the Dortmund mines were first carried out for research purposes only. But latterly mining experts from all over the country and other European states have been coming specially to learn more about fire-damp explosions.

This is the only "laboratory" mine of its-kind-in-the-world. It has six kilometre-long galleries and two shafts.



During research work experts realised what causes fire-damp explosions even when the air methane-content is well below the danger level of five to fifteen per cent.

Methane is lighter than air and if it escapes from coal at the sides of in the roof of a gallery, instead of mixing with the air it becomes concentrated in the roof. Naturally methane counts taken lower down in the gallery do not register a dangerous level.

One particularly disastrous fire-damp explosion occurred in the "Minister Stein" mine in 1925. Altogether 126 miners were killed and this prompted the Reichstag to turn the "Tremonia" mine over to research teams for experimental purposes in 1927.

In the fifty years since then, this move has more than proved its worth. The stone dust barrier safety technique that was developed there is now being introduced into mines all over the world. By this method stone dust is churned up by the explosion and stifles the flame.

The water trough barrier was also developed in the Tremonia mine. This extinguished the flame when the detonation released water in the troughs.

The best, most recently developed security measure, is a "paste" wich is sprayed over sides and roof of galleries.

It binds coal dust — which is the real fuel for a fire-damp explosion after the initial detonation — and keeps it damp. This hygroscopic mass of potassium and magnesium which absorbs moisture makes a major explosion more of less impossible.

This paste is used in all coal mines in the Federal Republic, and almost certainly has a lot to do with the fact that no major disaster has occurred through fire-damp explosions in the past twelve years.

Formerly they used to happen with frightening regularity. The last mining disaster was in the "Luise" mine in the Saar which has the highest gas count of any coal mine in this country and is therefore most prone to fire- and explosions. That time 299 men were killed.

But mining experts are not content to rest on their laurels yet and they are continuing their research work. The conditions under which such explosions happen are often unpredictable and the course they take downright capricious.

Even getting a fire-damp explosion started artificially can pose problems. Sometimes it just does not happen. "But if it were different there would not be any coal miners any more," says mine director Kurt Reinke.

Even a primary detonation can only be triggered off when a lot of shot-firing fumes are under the roof of the gallery and if the right concentration of methane is present — that is five to fifteen per cent.

The primary detonation has to mix the methane with the air so as to ignite other layers of methane.

Before coal dust ignites and the main explosion occurs, there has to be at least one hundred grammes of coal dust per cubic metre of air, containing 25 to 35 per cent volatile matter.

It is difficult to safeguard mines against fire-damp explosions because they can go off in so many different ways. Either they happen too quickly and are already past the water trough barriers when they release their water. Or else they go off too slowly and too gently to trigger off the barriers.

Sometimes the explosion runs round in irregular circles and spirals rather than in one broad front across the gallery and so avoids, the the water troughs.

So an automatic electronic barrier has been invented. It distinguishes between "normal fires" such as a train passing or a pressure wave and "real" explosions.

As soon as it registers a sudden temperature increase of over two hundred degrees within ten milliseconds it releases water barriers automatically.

Incidentally, the Tremonia mine has been fitted out with reinforced concrete bunkers full of the latest electronic equipment for registering the speed, strength and so on of blast waves.

Tests have also been run on man-sized dummies which show that even a fairly mild explosion can throw a man off his feet and badly injure him.

(Handelsblatt, 2 March 1977)

'Rhine Control' air traffic centre moves from Frankfurt to Karlsruhe

The "Rhine Control" air traffic control centre in the old Frankfurt airport has now moved — after some delay — to its new quarters in Karlsruhe.

Rhine Control is responsible for all air traffic flying at at attitude of 7,500 metres and higher along air traffic routes over south Germany.

Between 1966 and 1976 the volume of traffic it has to cope with increased by about 65 per cent — more than twenty per cent of that in the last three years.

Civilian traffic accounts for most of this increase. In 1959 military aircraft accounted for more than 75 per cent of the total volume of traffic. In 1966 it was still about forty per cent. But since 1972 less than twenty per cent of the aircraft Rhine Control deals with have been military.

In 1976 Rhine Control supervised a total of 226,532 flights — that is, a daily quota of more than 620. In July, the peak month of the year, they dealt with an average of 750 flights per day, and on the record day over one thousand.

In all probability air traffic will continue to increase in 1977, probably by a good ten per cent. And the situation is not likely to improve in 1978.

The new Karlsruhe centre should be worth every one of the 132 million deutschmarks it cost to build from the point of view of air safety and the efficiency of the air traffic controllers and data processors of the Federal Air Control Institute.

The air control centre is over a thousand square metres in area and has six control sectors, a tryout sector, a supervisory sector, a sector for special duties and a data processing department.

There there are twenty-four control strip printers which give detailded information on the situation in the air every ten seconds.

Date from computers is projected onto thirteen control display units with their thirteen pace-printers. And in cases of emergency if the computers are out of action teleprinters take over.

In addition, the centre is fitted out with cable television with six cameras and fifty receivers for several channels. It has its own telephone exchange and direct lines, and 25 UHF and thirteen VHF transmitters and receivers.

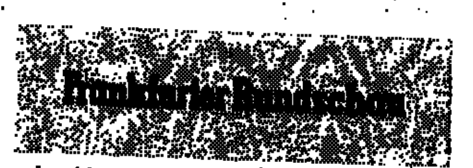
The thirty-five control desks each have synthetic display screens, strip rinters and telephone.

Three IBM 370/158 computers control supplies of information on flight schedules, control strips and radar data. And there are also four Telefunken Periphery computers TR 86 and two MP 720 Hardware Plot Processers.

Should the electricity supply be cut off, work continues under battery-powered current and energy from three diesel generators.

Telephone and radio conversations as well as all information fed into and given out by computers are recorded and put on file. Data from five medium range radar units are digitalised, telephoned through to Karlsruhe and fed into the system.

From now on air traffic controllers



schould have a much easier time keeping a check on aircraft in the area they are responsible for with the new "Karldap A" system. They cover an area from slightly south of the Aachen-Kassel line to the north, a line running from Lake Constance to the east of Stuttgart and to the north of Nuremberg.

Now, for example, they can switch on to different corridors at will, switching off the others that are of less importance temporarily. The varying shades of light and dark on the screens enable them to destinguish destinations that the system is covering from those it is not.

Aircraft whose radios are out of order or who are in difficulties are visible as a moving light on the screen. The identity and height of aircraft registered by the air control system are represented by moving tags.

Air control duties are divided into planing and executive functions. But although this halves the burden it causes other problems.

Coordination of work is much more complicated and air controllers cannot possibly keep an overall picture of the air control system because it has become so automated.

They cannot check up on all the data they need for every decision to make sure it is correct. This leaves the whole process wide open to technical breakdowns and possible computer errors — obvious security risks.

Although the volume of work made it extremely difficult for air traffic controllers to cope in the old centre in Frankfurt, it still remains to be seen whether the new one will make a great deal of difference.

Further difficulties may crop up because there are three absolutely separate personnel teams in the Karlsruhe centre. About 150 "Eurocontrol" employees are responsible for the technical and computer equipment.

A good two hundred-odd employees of the Federal Air Control Institute are responsible for civilian and military air traffic restricted to set lanes.

And military air traffic that is not obliged to stay in certain lanes is the responsibility of about one hundred Bundeswehr soldiers.

Time will thell whether the move to Karlsruhe has been worth while for Rhine Control and air traffic in general — perhaps it will only come into its own in 1979 when the Karldap I system provides even more refined technical equipment.

But having authority in the centre divided three ways could cause problems and could represent a grave risk to air safety. Experts have been pressing for air control to be made the responsibility of only one organisation for some time now. It may turn out to be the only solution.

Wolfgang Kassebohm

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 26 February 1977)

■ ZOOLOGY

Cats and humans can be good friends, says Max Planck researcher



The Wuppertal research group from the Max Planck Institute for Behavioural Physiology in Seewiesen has been studying behavioural patterns of cats — large and small — under the leadership of Professor Paul Leyhausen.

As regards evolution cats occupy a position mid-way between the largest and smallest mammals. By carrying out comparative studies of their behavioural patterns more can be learned about other mammals — even man — and how their behavioural patterns developed.

Professor Leyhausen is particularly interested in cats' highly complex hunting and stalking techniques. In order to reproduce the natural environment as nearly as possible in Wuppertal the cats under observation there are supplied with prey — rats, mice, guinea-pigs and rabbits.

The cats' movements in closing in on and pouncing on their prey are filmed, and each sequence of movements is then carefully analysed.

A comparison of films of various types of cat shows clearly that there is a basic store of movements common to all cats.

Professor Leyhausen and his team have now been studying what differences in movement there are between different cats and when they occur.

All cats have a basic repertoire of at least 24 to 28 distinct hunting movements, according to Professor Leyhausen. They resort to more and more of these tricks depending on how complex and difficult the situation becomes.

Even tame cats do not lose this repertoire but these movements are far less distinct among domestic animals, and there are actually house cats that are unable to kill.

In some cases this inability is inherited. But mostly it is a result of a "missing link" in the cats' early stages of development.

"Cats have to learn to pounce and kill during a particular stage of their development. If they miss out on that for any reasons they can learn it later only with some difficulty and with special training," says Professor Leyhausen.

The impulse to kill does not come automatically when the cat becomes hungry; quite the reverse. The cat has to learn that it can satisfy its appetite by killing other animals for food.

A young animal that has missed out on its learning-to-kill phase can be taught this by putting a piece of dead mouse in with its normal food for a while. In this way it learns that freshly killed animals are edible.

Experiments have proven that it is possible to teach even an adult animal to kill and how to set about eating its prey.

So the damage done by missing out on such a necessary phase of cats' development is not irreversible and can be made good with some effort — contrary to what scientists originally believed.

Asked whether it is cruel to keep cats cooped up in a house or flat without the opportunity to run around and hunt Professor Leyhausen said "In many cases unfortunately the answer is yes. But if it is kept in good condition and is not confined to too small a space a cat has plenty of other ways of filling its time.

"It can let off a lot off steam in playing with and pouncing on a ball of wool or a table tennis ball. Even wild cats can get quite obsessed with such games."

Popular opinion has it that cats are loners, but the Wuppertal research team has reached the conclusion that cats are definitely gregarious animals.

Fully grown males that have proven their strength and ability form gangs with which they uphold their position of authority over other cats — for instance younger male cats who in turn become part of a gang after proving themselves in fights.

These gangs have no permanent set hierarchy. However a superior cat may visit an inferior cat's home hunting ground and inspect it at his leisure without opposition from the other.

The superior animal would never drive the inferior out of his area, however. This is because a cat's position in this so-called relative social hierarchy is bound up with its own hard-won territory. Its self-confidence and belligerence decrease the further afield it is from its own ground, and increase the nearer it is to "home".

Besides this relative hierarchy there is also an absolute hierarchy. But even so the supreme cat — a male — by no means adopts the role of a tyrant that rules over other males and their mating. He would have difficulty doing this alone in any case, since the females have the last word about mating.

Relative and absolute hierarchies in the world of the cat are flexible and merge into each other almost imperceptibly. But flexibility, mutual tolerance and all such social rules fly to the winds when cats are shut up together at close quarters in a cage. "There is a definite connection between the balance between absolute and relative hierarchies and how close together cats live. The more overcrowded a cage is the less the relative hierarchy is adhered to", says Professor Leyhausen. "Finally one cat becomes the despotic ruler of all the other cats. Some, the weaker ones, allow themselves to be bullied pitilessly by others. They reach such a pitch of depair and nervousness that they start showing all sorts of neurotic symptoms. "The others in the cage band together in a vicious mob. The tension between then never relaxes, they never appear content and there's always some squabble going on somewhere in the cage. "The cats lose all interest in playing, become depressed and move around as little as possible." So cats need freedom to develop normally. It they are denied this they become over-aggressive at first and later give way to resignation and depression. "When it reaches this stage the animals may even die as a result of stress.

"Suppressing the instinct to fight away the others puts such strain on cats that they become ill", explained Professor Leyhausen.

The connection with the "highest mammal", man, is fairly obvious. But there is one major difference: Animals can't reason enough to say to themselves 'the others can't go away'. But man placed in similarly overcrowded conditions can do this. Yet even among people it gets too much, reason fails, and the result is fighting and quarrelling."

Again in contrast to popular opinion Professor Leyhausen says that cats can become very dependent on humans if affection and company if enough time and attention is spent on them. This inclination is even stronger in cats than dogs who are generally held to be more sociable than cats.

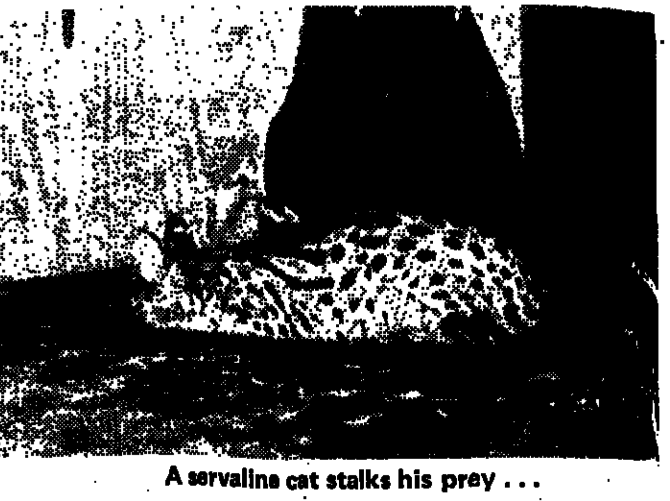
Cats behave the same way to humans as they do towards others of their species. "Their behaviour is connected with their natural sexual and family instinct.

"Hence gestures such as lifting the head, rubbing sides, licking, nose rubbing and in the case of female cats every thing in the book about flirting and giving the 'hands off' signal."

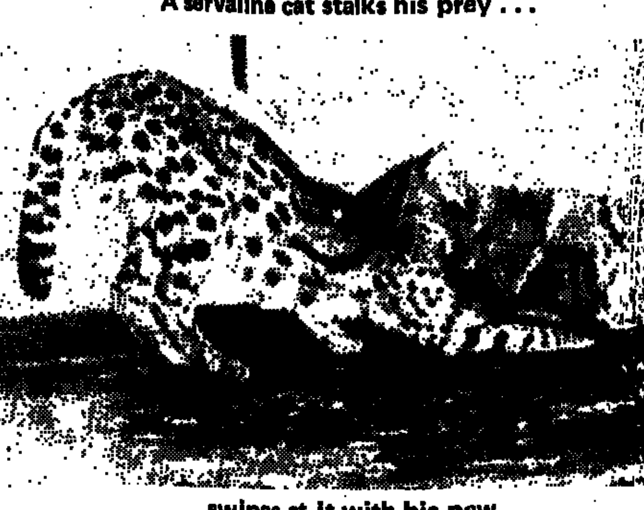
Nevertheless cats rarely regard humans as one of their own species. Professor Leyhausen says, that cat-human relations can be much closer, and more friendly than relations between cat and cat — mostly because cats generally have no occasion to show aggression towards people as they do to others of their own kind.

Horst Meermann

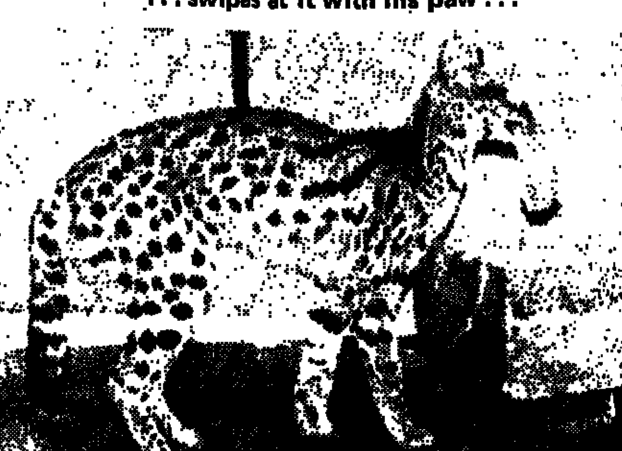
(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 27 February 1977)



A servaline cat stalks his prey . . .

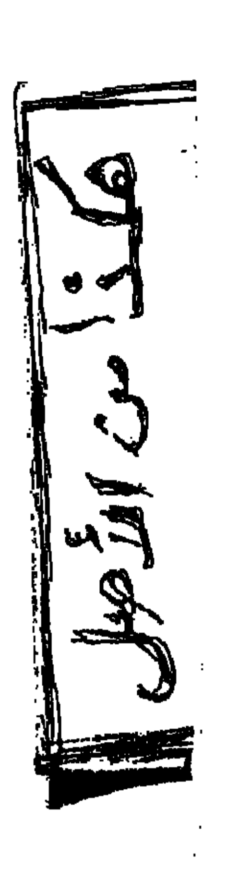


. . . swipes at it with his paw . . .



. . . and then carries it off

(Photos: KK)



■ TOURISM

Offenbach, Germany's leatherware centre, is 1,000 years old



Offenbach on the Main is one thousand years old this year. The first official mention of the city dates back to a document written in the year 977. Festivities to mark the occasion have already begun.

Offenbach has a history it can be fairly proud of. Between 1576 and 1815 it was the home of the princes of Isenburg. Since 1816 it has been part of Hesse, and about this time or a little earlier the leatherware industry for which it is now famous got started in earnest. Since 1949 it has regularly held an international trades fair for leather goods.

It has taken in a large number of religious refugees, particularly Huguenots. It became particularly favoured by the cultural middle class during the nineteenth century. It was here that Goethe worked on Faust and Mozart chose an Offenbach publisher for his works. At this time the city's industry expanded rapidly.

For as long as it has existed Offenbach has been somewhat overshadowed by neighbouring Frankfurt. The rivalry and animosity between these two cities has reached legendary proportions.

While Offenbach has no cause to hang its head over its past history it is most probably wishing heartily that it had some of Frankfurt's wealth at the moment.

It is not only in permanent financial need; this 115,000-strong city also has the highest indebtedness per inhabitant in the Federal Republic.

It is in debt to the tune of 340 million deutschmarks and has to fork out 42 million in interest payments each year. Debts amounting to 4740 deutschmarks are being carried by each citizen in the city, old and young.

"Excluding city-owned concerns, however, it is only DM 3080" — a fact on which city councillors place the greatest importance.

The city even decided not accept the offer of organising the Hesse Fair this year because of its financial difficulties. This is an annual folklore festival that has always meant valuable publicity for the city.

But Offenbach itself would have had to put up one-third of the costs — eighty thousand deutschmarks — and even this was asking too much of its coffers. The remaining two-thirds is always paid by the state.

Offenbach has always been extremely proud of its independent status. Now, with things as they are, there is nothing its inhabitants fear more than that it will be incorporated with Frankfurt.

Even now without road signs it is pretty well impossible to tell where Offenbach ends and Frankfurt begins, they have become so merged.

And from time to time attempts have been made to incorporate Offenbach into Frankfurt for administrative purposes. The last such attempt was at the end of the sixties on the part of former Lord Mayor of Frankfurt Walter Möller.

At the moment there is a sort of cease-fire. In 1975 an association was formed with the administrative authorities of the Frankfurt urban area, the Offenbach urban and rural areas, the Hoch-Taunus rural district, and parts of the Main-Taunus, Gross-Gerau, Main-Kinzing and Wetterau rural districts. This powerful association, chaired by Lord Mayor of Frankfurt Rudi Arndt, has been formed in an attempt to solve the financial, political and planning problems of the entire area jointly without any one of the districts involved losing its independence.

A lot of people in Offenbach are sceptical to say the least and are convinced that this is simply another attempt to incorporate Offenbach into Frankfurt.

Lord Mayor of Offenbach Walter Buckpesch is adamant that this is not so. "There is no question of our giving up our independence. But we can get nowhere without or by going against the rest of the Main metropolis."

An Offenbach tourist guide gives an idea of what the people there think of Frankfurt. There it is listed merely as "An unimportant city lying downstream from Offenbach which has been trying for a thousand years to make Offenbach a part of itself."

And of Sachsenhausen it says, "An urban area taken over by Frankfurt, connected with Offenbach because of its position next to it on the south side of the river Main." The people in Frankfurt of course give Offenbach as good as it gets.

But if all the needling that goes on bothers the people in Offenbach at all, they are not letting it interfere with their "birthday" celebrations.

Offenbach is going out of its way to make sure visitors to the celebration go away with the impression that it is a dynamic and progressive city full of go and new ideas — no matter what its bigger neighbour might say.

Wilhelm Körber

(Die Welt, 23 February 1977)

The Isenburger Castle at Offenbach

(Photo: Michael Mewes)

Tourism boom for the Federal Republic

Vorwärts

The Federal Republic's tourist industry is going through a boom period such as it has never experienced before. American tourists have always come in fairly large numbers, but now they are being joined by hordes of holidaymakers from European countries.

The reason for the sudden attraction of the Federal Republic is pretty well anyone's guess. In any case it is certainly not because holidays are cheap here, even for American guests.

And Germans are not exactly renowned for their hospitableness and friendliness to tourists.

Yet the Federal Tourist Office (DZT) registered an increase in the flow of tourists to this country of 8.4 per cent in the first half of last year.

In the same period the country's foreign currency intake rose by sixteen per cent to 3,480 million deutschmarks.

According to the Ministry of Economics the country provided accommodation for 264 million overnight stays last year. Eight per cent — that is 21.12 million — were paid for by foreign visitors.

This year the government is subsidising the DZT to the tune of 18.3 million deutschmarks. That is one million more than in 1976. Most of this money is being used for advertising abroad. If the present trend it anything to do with past advertising campaigns then the money is being well-spent.

Things began to look up for the tourist trade in 1975 after it had been through a couple of particularly lean years. Then in the first half of 1976 the number of overnight stays by American tourists suddenly rose by 19.3 per cent. And the foreign currency intake increased by as much as 21 per cent.

The figures for Canadian tourists are even more startling. The number of overnight stays rose by 22.5 per cent and the intake of foreign currency shot up by 53 per cent.

Even in 1972 the hotels and restaurant business employed 713,00 people. But today every tenth person in the Federal Republic depends to some degree on the tourist trade in making a living.

The statistics are impressive enough. But they give no clue as to what is encouraging so many more people to spend their holiday in the Federal Republic.

The times when a "grand tour" of Europe was part and parcel of the education of any middle or upper class person in Britain or the USA are long since past.

And although the romantic charm of the old towns in the Federal Republic may hold some attraction the expense of a holiday in this country with currency exchange rates as they are ought normally to be prohibitive.

Even the excitement and novelty of going on a touring holiday abroad has lost a lot of the glamour it had fifty or sixty years ago.

With travel becoming easier and cheaper it is particularly surprising that the increase in tourists to this country is not only due to visitors from overseas, but also in large part to visitors from neighbouring European countries.

Danish, Dutch, Belgian, French and Swiss tourist have been flocking here to an extent hitherto unknown. The rates of increase in tourists from these countries range from seven per cent for Switzerland and as much as 18.1 per cent in the case of Denmark.

Yet they know that a holiday in this country is going to hit their pockets hard and the Federal Republic has nothing that their own countries do not have. Romantic though some old towns may be, it is hardly likely to be nostalgia that brings them here. It could of course be interest to see the powerful and wealthy nation that has grown up so quickly out of the ashes of the Second World War.

The Federal Republic certainly appears economically and socially stable to other countries and that is bound to stir some curiosity — but not just curiosity most probably.

The country's apparent stability is backed up by political stability which bears all the features of democracy. This is something of rarity today and has not often been achieved in the past either.

It is the combination of all these things that attracts so many people to this country at the moment — its remarkable stance at present, and its somewhat disreputable past; the mixture of barbarian, romantic, engineer and poet in the German character.

It is worth while spending a holiday in the Federal Republic — the statistics prove it. And even Germans are beginning to realise it. Last year considerably more people from this country spent their holiday here.

It looks as if the Federal Republic's tourist industry is finally being given the chance it has been waiting for. It is up to the country to make the best possible use of its chance by being more help[illegible] and friendly than its reputation [illegible]

Sig[illegible]

(Vorwärts [illegible] 1977)

■ MODERN LIVING

Kassel's wallpaper museum mounts a special exhibition

The wallpaper museum in Kassel is currently showing a select collection of six hundred-odd exhibits dating as far back as the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries and a further ninety or so exhibits from modern collections.

The museum is the first of its kind in Europe if not in the world. It owes its existence to the interest and initiative of one Gustav Iven, a counsellor of commerce in Hamburg in the twenties, who collected the main core of the collection. The museum was set up in Kassel largely because the first wallpaper factory was there. It is now run by a private society of wallpaper manufacturers and other wallpaper specialists.

The exhibits include gigantic landscape wallpapers, baroque leather, wax cloth wallpapers and wall hangings from the South Pacific, and are only part of the collection numbering thousands of items. The first wallpapers were made of leather. In the south of Spain Moorish and Christian art commingled, enriching each other at a fairly early date. It was here that the first wallpaper was made in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.

It was made from the hide of young goats and sheep, embossed, painted in parts with oil paint and sewn together to form impressive wall hangings.

Spain was also the first country in Europe to produce paper. They learned the process from the Chinese — *the* authority on anything to do with paper.

The exhibits are displayed in a couple of dozen rooms. They are arranged in chronological order, showing the fashions, styles and odd quirks of fancy in wallpaper up to the present day.

They are also arranged so as to compare wallpapers of various cultures — exotic landscapes, neo-classicism, floral and abstract.

The beginning of the nineteenth century was the heyday of wallpapers with stifling bowers of plants and flowers, giant landscapes and scenes from famous literary works.

Mass production of wallpapers became possible with the invention of cylinder printing. This was the start of modern-day wallpaper taste, style and manufacturing methods.

Since then ancient and modern styles and taste have become imperceptible intermingled. Depressing or comforting, there is no getting round it that even in the case of wallpaper it has all been done before.

The exhibition includes a good number of more unusual wallpapers as well as run-of-mill common wallpapers of the past. Museum director Ernst Wolfgang Mick and commercial artist Johannes Jaxy have done an excellent job in placing each exhibit in its historic and cultural context as realistically as possible.

The museum also has a number of printing machines and equipment from manual printing processes through to modern printing methods.

It also devotes a section to colour printing, authentic historic documents and specialised literature from various countries.

To help visitors make the most of their tour of the museum, video tapes are also available giving details of the sequence of exhibits and various points of particular interest.

The Kassel wallpaper museum is well worth a visit and anyone in Kassel for the big "documenta" exhibition should not fail to make the effort to go to it.

It is open from Tuesday to Sunday, including public holidays from ten to five o'clock. Entry is free of charge and guided tours can be applied for in advance.

Marion Morgenstern

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 26 February 1977)



"After you, Sir", a wallpaper motif showing Napoleon drinking from a soldier's flask, from a lithograph by Nicolas-Toussaint Charlet in 1840 in Paris

(Photo: Deutsches Tapetenmuseum)

Passengers getting too paunchy, say aviation chiefs

Airline authorities say tourists from the Federal Republic are too fat and take too much luggage with them — particularly those flying to the Canaries and the Balearic islands.

This is the result of an enquiry carried out by the Federal Aviation Board in Brunswick. Because of this it has seen fit to introduce a new standard weight for passengers so that the weight in jets can be better distributed.

From now on the "average" weight allowance of women passengers on charter planes will be 75 instead of 65 kilogrammes. This is the same "weight allowance" as for men.

The Aviation Board hastened to add that this by no means infers that only women have put on so many extra pounds.

Director of the Aviation Board, Herr Kössler made a point of saying that on average in recent years all passengers have gained weight quite considerably.

By raising the standard weight limit the Aviation Board hopes that charter companies will be able to make more thorough checks on the weight of passengers and their luggage.

The Federal Aviation Board ran checks on 1,500 holiday-makers leaving the Canary Islands and Mallorca prior to making their decision. They found that many passengers were overweight, carried excess baggage and were leaving with "weighty" souvenirs, and that planes flying on these routes were grossly overloaded.

Because of the extra weight they are carrying a number of airlines have already been considering either carrying fewer passengers or breaking up journeys — although extra landings are extremely expensive.

ddp

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 23 February 1977)

Demographers to study fall in birth rate

This country's population figures will drop by three million by 1990. By the year two thousand they will have dropped by as much as six million unless families become larger on average from now on.

The result will be a considerable change in the age distribution in the Federal Republic. And this brings a whole line of problems and issues with it, such as who will pay the pensions, fill the jobs, what will happen to cities and to rural areas, whether universities will suddenly be half empty.

The Federal Association for Demography convened recently in Frankfurt to discuss these and other political problems which could arise from the drop in the birth rate.

Members of the Association warned of the danger of letting the birth rate continue to fall. Effects of this are already evident in kindergartens and schools.

Between 1985 and 1990 it will make its mark on the labour market. If this trend continues it will have drastic effects on the social security system. Yet society is still failing to take the situation seriously enough.

Dr Hilde Wander of the Kiel Institute for World Economy made the point, however, that the size of families in this country is subject to far too many complex influences and psychological motives to be easily influenced by political measures.

The Association will now investigate and analyse the causes and results of the drop in the birth rate before going into the whole issue in detail with politicians.

It hopes to stabilise the country's population statistics eventually. American studies have already shown that oscillation of population statistics can cause major social problems.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 25 February 1977)

Women in Munich can now ring for abortion advice

Women in Munich who need advice about getting an abortion can now ring up an official information centre which has just been started by the Munich postal authorities.

"We want to spare women the difficulties of asking around the city about where they can go for advice about abortions," says Eva Jakob of the Bavarian Ministry of Social Affairs, who is responsible for organising the telephone service.

Women who phone Munich 11535 will be given a run-down on all officially recognised advisory centres and will be able to choose.

What is more, the fact that this information is given over tapes and telephone ensures absolute anonymity.

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 26 February 1977)

More children in despair are phoning for help

Emergency telephone advisory services are getting more and more calls from school children often aged only about ten or fourteen who are in total despair and unable to cope with their problems alone.

According to Professor Kurt Nitsch, president of the Federal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, such telephone services have been started up now in about twenty towns and cities in the Federal Republic. They are run with the assistance of volunteer helpers.

Speaking in Hanover recently Professor Nitsch praised the work of these services and the value they are to children and adults alike, but warned of the danger of giving children "amateur advice" that cannot help them.

Professor Nitsch said that many telephone advisory centres are having to do without qualified staff who know how to dissuade a child contemplating suicide, and how to help it.

"A housewife's common sense, sound though it may be, is often simply not enough in such cases. The volunteers must be backed up by professional help," he said. "But the only thing is, that costs a small fortune."

Most of the children that phone up are driven to this by pressure at school and fear of their parents' reaction to poor examination results.

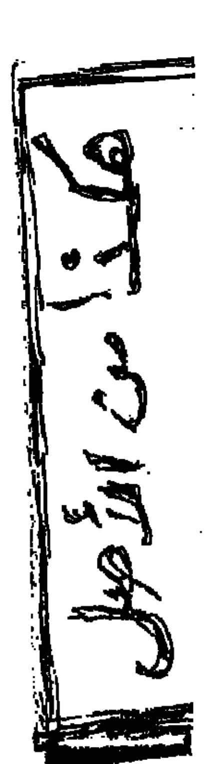
In order of frequency these are followed by children caught shop-lifting. But the despair and terror of these children is no less extreme than that of those who are afraid of doing badly at school.

Fear of their parents is the overriding factor in all these cases. On phoning up children often say their parents treat them unjustly — perhaps punish them without making it clear what they have done wrong.

Professor Nitsch added, however, that every effort must be made to restore good child-parent relations and that advisers should on no account say anything that might make the situation worse.

ddp

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 26 February 1977)



■ SPORT

Training children too hard can cripple them, say sports doctors



Sports doctors and ice skating experts are becoming disturbed over the number of world-class skating pairs that are crassly unsuited to each other in height and weight.

Tassilo Thierbach from Dresden is twenty years of age, 1.72 metres tall and weighs in at 72 kilogrammes. He is partnered with fourteen-year old Sabine Baess who weighs just 36.5 kilogrammes and is 1.55 metres in height.

When they flew to Helsinki for the European ice skating championships, this pair certainly gave their opponents something to think about. But doctors and those who regard skating as an aesthetic art were horrified.

Hans-Jürgen Bäumler, one of the greats in pair skating in the sixties with Marika Kilius describes the sport now as a "child-throwing competition".

Tassilo Thierbach and Sabine Baess are by no means the only such oddly-matched couple on ice, and neither is the difference in their weight, age and height as gross as in some other cases. There are now a good many child stars in international ice skating events for adults.

"That's not pair skating, its a circus act. There's just no beauty or gracefulness where there's such a big difference in height and weight," says Marika Kilius.

The fact is that all aesthetic considerations are cast to the winds these days because an athletic man can throw a slight child much further and higher into the air.

In the European championships in Helsinki Sergej Scharkrej and Marina Tscherkasowa took third place. He is eigteen years old and 1.80 metres tall. She is just twelve years of age, 1.37 metres tall and weighs only 27 kilogrammes.

Wolfdieter Montag doctor of the Federal Ice skating Association predicts grimly, "Children who are driven so hard so early practically always suffer for it in the long run."

This striving for inhuman achievements particularly in sports where feminine charm and gracefulness are a necessary part, has introduced children to a working world to which they would not normally be admitted.

But in international gymnastics championships for instance the average age of female entries dropped within twelve years from 24 to fifteen.

Achim Klümper, sports doctor in Freiburg predicts a dismal future for Rumanian gymnast Nadia Comaneci, 1,52 metres tall, weighing 38 kilogrammes, with several Olympic victories behind her. "Girls like Nadia are done for in a few years. I'd rather not use the word cripple, it's so grotesque."

The Federal Republic has already had bitter experience in this line. Ulrike Weyh from Itzehoe started serious gymnastics at the age of six.

After about eight thousand training sessions during which she did the splits roughly fifty thousand times she had to call it a day.

Her doctor diagnosed: "Left pelvis displaced, the crooked position of the lumbar vertebra causing severe pains in the shoulders and sacrum."

Now aged sixteen Ulrike Weyh has to have the sole of her right shoe one and a half centimetres thinker than her left one.

Professor Josef Nöcker from Leverkusen and chef de mission of this country's Olympic team in 1968 and 1972 says. "On the whole we doctors don't take such a serious view of training children hard. The human body can cope with that.

"Obviously orthopaedic specialists get a bit more bothered by it. But it is impossible to say how much damage is caused as yet. None of the people who started intensive training at an early age have reached the age of forty of fifty yet."

Just How long Marina Tscherkasowa has been training is not known here. But Dr Montag says, "people say she could do every single double jump by the age of ten. That means she must have at least four years' intensive training behind her."

Orthopaedic specialists have worked out the strain such training puts on the body.

If a man weighing eighty kilogrammes jumps one metre into the air, on landing his hip joints have to bear pressure amounting to 25 hundredweight. "And knee joints, tendons and ligaments have to take even more" says Dr Montag.

Sergej Scharkrej will be continuing to throw his little partner in the air in more and more ambitious feats of skill – such as where Marina turns in the air four times before landing on the outside blade of her right skating boot without so much as a hint of a fall.

When Sabine Baess from Dresden was training for this jump in 1976 she broke her right knee-cap.

Back in the sixties at the time of the Kilius-Bäumler team such a jump would have been unthinkable. Marika Kilius weighed 57 kilogrammes at the world championships in 1964. And today Hans-Jürgen Bäumler has considerable back trouble.

Frank Quednau

(Die Welt, 2 March 1977)

Ulrike Weyh (Photo: dpa)

Avalanche survival course for skiers in Bavaria

Walter Kellermann, qualified mountain- and ski-guide, has started a series of four-day courses on avalanches, what causes them, and how to rescue people buried in them.

He is a customs officer in Reit im Winkl in Bavaria — home ground of Olympic Gold winner Rosi Mittermaier, and is an authority on avalanches not only in courts of law, but also when the official go-ahead is needed for new mountain railways.

The courses are intended for the average tourist just as much as more serious skiers, for "just about anyone out on the Alps in winter runs the risk of experiencing an avalanche." And most tragedies with avalanches occur close to ski-runs and lifts.



Last April on the Durrbachhorn 1776 metres above Winklmoosalm a huge avalanche started when temperatures rose to two degrees above zero. This was the first time in living memory that it had happened there. Fortunately no-one was out at the time.

Experience has taught Kellermann that the only effective way of minimising the danger of deaths through avalanches is by reproducing the avalanche situation as closely as possible and teaching people what to do.

He himself was responsible for inaugurating an official avalanche warning service on the Zugspitze eleven years ago. He now says this is not adequate.

In Munich a central office analyse weather reports from nineteen outlook posts in Bavaria, but these can only give general reports of fairly large areas, and locally conditions can vary quite a bit from the overall report.

Kellermann is also against putting up avalanche warning signs all over the mountains, and says they are pointless and may even be dangerous. The signs remain in the same place for the whole season and gave little clue as to changing conditions.

Many firms running ski-lifts simply regard these warning signs as necessary legal protection at the side of their ski slopes.

So it it up everyone to look after himself as well as possible. But now, thanks to Kellermann's initiative, any winter sport fan can learn the theory and practice of avalanche and avalanche rescues.

Kellermann worked out his teaching method at the avalanche research institute on the Weissfluhjoch, and he is fully convinced that it will be a success.

"About ninety per cent of avalanche accidents would be avoidable if people knew the most important signs of avalanches and rules for escaping unhurt."

It is important to be able to analyse snow conditions. Professionals do this by digging in the snow with a light plastic shovel. For holiday-makers it is enough to know that old snow late in the season is relatively harmless, but that crusted snow covered with a new fall is to be avoided like the plague.

The weather is the other thing to watch out for. When temperatures suddenly rise skiers must always reckon with an avalanche. Rain is dangerous to start with but later helps the snow become former.

In a book Kellermann has published on safety away from the ski slopes, he warns skiers of the danger of wind, the "avalanche builder". Ninety per cent of all avalanches occur on slopes facing the east and north because in the northern Alps the wind, which generally blows from the west, builds up extremely dangerous drifts.

Factor number three is the terrain itself. Kellermann takes groups of ten on mountain tours lasting half a day — naturally over the less dangerous slopes.

During this time his pupils learn to avoid various dangerous types of slope and where possible travel only on the less dangerous ridges and buttresses.

Larch groves and snow-covered undergrowth are basically to be regarded with suspicion, but there is little to be feared under pine trees.

The course ends with a practical lesson in finding buried skiers under the guidance of mountain-guide Horst Westernacher of the Federal Alpine Association.

Three electronic "bleeps" are buried in the snow and the avalanche pupils have to find them with electronic search equipment.

Westernacher has no great opinion of people who "ride" avalanches. "People who say they've tried that must have more luck than sense", he says disparagingly.

Statistics show that every fourth person dug out of avalanches was dead before being buried with snow.

Karl Stankiewitz

(Münchner Merkur 24 February 1977)